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## MR. WALKER ON LEAVE THIS YEAR

PROFESSOR N. W. WALKER, for thirteen years State Inspector of High Schools and Professor of Secondary Education in the University of North Carolina has been granted a leave of absence by the Trustees and has taken up his residence at Cambridge where he will spend the year studying in the Graduate School of Education, Harvard University. At the end of his leave Professor Walker returns to devote his entire time to work in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina, giving attention specifically to courses for high school teachers and to other educational service in the high school field of the State.

Mr. Walker's services to public education in North Carolina during the past thirteen years have been of a high order, and the creditable development of public high schools during those years has been very largely due to his activities and administrative wisdom. During that time the number of standard high schools in the State showed a remarkable increase and the attendance in them increased nearly 400 per cent. This achievement was made possible largely through the impulse of reform which Mr. Walker was able to stimulate and promote by his indefatigable labor and enlightened service. Mr. Walker has promised and it is hoped that he will shortly prepare a detailed statement of the growth and expansion of public high school work in North Carolina during his inspectorship. Such a report will contain an inspiring story and be a real contribution to the educational history of North Carolina.

During the present year Mr. Walker continues as Director of the Summer Session of the University, and also as managing editor of *The High School Journal*.—Edgar W. Knight.

## SELECTING THE HIGH SCHOOL PLAY

THE growing tendency toward making the dramatic a real part of the curriculum in our schools and colleges is being shown in various ways, from the use of dramatization in the primary grades to the courses in dramatic composition in colleges. It is unfortunately true that the study of dramas required in most high schools concerns itself with a consideration of the literary values only, whereas these great plays may be truly appreciated only in their actual production as drama. The high school student's ideas of the dramatic are too often limited to the plays "gotten up" by the classes for commencement or for some special occasion to secure funds for the

school. The plays selected are often hurriedly produced and of small literary or dramatic quality; while, on the other hand, the reading of plays in class work has forced the student to regard these classics as "high-brow" and their study a task.

Realizing the wastefulness of this state of affairs, teachers of English are striving to make the presentation of plays an integral part of the school curriculum. This is done by studying the required plays from the point of view of their dramatic as well as their literary values and by cultivating in the student an appreciation of good drama. Such a "laboratory course" develops the personality of the pupils as well as teaching self-expression in acting and writing and the creation of artistic scenery and costumes. It has often been found best to begin with a simple one-act play before presenting a longer drama which is being studied in class. But the play selected should be worth while and form a stepping stone to the production of more difficult drama.

To aid in the selection of plays in schools, colleges and communities, the Division of Community Drama of the University Bureau of Extension has published a classified list of *Plays for Amateurs*, which may be borrowed from the University Library for reading before the selection of the play is made. About five hundred plays are described briefly in this bulletin and a selective classification for special needs and occasions is included with a division for plays for children. The bulletin, *Plays for Amateurs*, Extension Series No. 36, will be sent to any citizen of the state and copies of the plays listed may be borrowed from the University Library for a period of two weeks, postage both ways being the only expense to the borrower. Miss Elizabeth A. Lay, Secretary of the Division of Community Drama, will also be glad to give advice concerning the selection of plays. This division, under the direction of Frederick H. Koch, Professor of Dramatic Literature, desires to be of service in every possible way to all those interested in the promotion of community drama in North Carolina and especially to the teachers in the state.

All correspondence concerning any phase of Community Drama should be sent to Miss Elizabeth A. Lay, Chapel Hill, N. C.

The annual meeting of the Department of Superintendence of the N. E. A. will be held in Atlantic City, February 27th to March 3d. The sessions will close in good time to allow for reaching Washington early enough for the inauguration exercises. Make your reservation now.